INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

al Application No

PCT/US 02/25133 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A61M39/10 F16L F16L17/035 A61B17/32 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A61M F16L A61B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. US 5 713 878 A (COFFIN C RONALD ET AL) 1 - 363 February 1998 (1998-02-03) cited in the application column 2, line 39 -column 3, line 18; figures 1-3 Y FR 2 094 507 A (PERROT FRANCE) 1 - 364 February 1972 (1972-02-04) column 2, line 28 - line 31; figure 1 column 3, line 11 - line 13 column 4, line 1 - line 5 Α FR 1 241 277 A (LORRAINE DES PROCEDES BAUER SO) 16 September 1960 (1960-09-16) the whole document Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance Invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another cliation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 20 November 2002 10/12/2002 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Valfort, C

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